Lincoln Neighborhood Watch

January> February> March 2007

The "EYE"

WINTER WORRIES



It is that time again.....time to get the snow blower warmed up and ready and watch for snow plows. It is always good to be prepared.

SNOW EMERGENCY: When declared, no parking is allowed on any arterial, emergency snow route or bus route. These routes are listed in your Windstream phone directory. Any non-emergency vehicle parked on these routes during a snow emergency may be ticketed and towed.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING BAN: Residential streets **are not** plowed after every snow storm. When it is apparent that the snowfall will start to hamper travel in the residential areas, a residential parking ban may be declared by the Mayor. Parking will be first banned on the even side of the street. Then, after that ban is rescinded, parking will be banned on the odd side of the street. Local news media will let the public know when these bans are placed into effect. Any vehicles parked on these streets after the bans are ordered can be ticketed and towed.

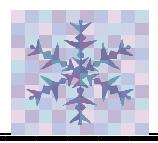
SANDING OPERATIONS: Sanding starts when freezing rain begins to fall. Material is placed on the main arterials, bus routes and known problem areas. Generally, no parking ban will be in effect during this time, but things could change quickly. Listen to local media for updates.

SNOW REMOVAL - **SIDEWALKS**: City ordinance 14.80.110 requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow by 9 am the morning after snow stops falling. If a person does not remove the snow/ice from their sidewalks, a person or company can be charged by the city for the cost of removing the snow, as well as cited for a violation of city ordinance.

SNOW PLOWING OF DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS: City ordinance 14.92.040 prohibits the placing of snow into the roadway from parking lots and driveways at any time. Citizens or commercial contractors removing snow from their parking lots or drives must have a location to place the snow. Any person or contractor placing snow into the city street may be subject to citation for violation of city ordinance. The city may also assess the person the cost of removing the snow that was placed there by the offending party.

A more comprehensive definition of the policies for snow emergencies and snow removal can be found in the Windstream phone directory and on line at the city website (www.lincoln.ne.gov). Please be prepared for the upcoming winter season. A little preparation now can save you trouble later.









WINTER PET CARE



The Holidays can be busy times of the year for everyone, including pets. Some pets may feel neglected or left out and problems may appear. Try to stick to your normal routine as much as possible or take some "doggie time" and go on an extra walk or playtime. If he will be spending more time outside, be sure he is wearing a collar with a license tag. He may also try to slip out the door when guests come and go. Wearing current identification tags will help in getting your dog back home. By law, he should always wear a current license tag.

Holiday decorations can also be a temptation to your pet. Cats love to climb trees and dogs love to....well, you get the picture. Encourage your pets to stay away from the trees and do not let them play with decorations. Keep candles up on high tables or mantles so that your pet does not knock them over. Many holiday plants, such as poinsettias and holly, are poisonous to your pets. Keep them out of the reach of your pets. If you think your pet may have eaten a poisonous plant, contact your vet immediately.

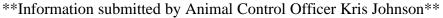
Holiday parties can be a real stressor to your pet. If possible, put your pets in a separate room so that the excess noise and activity will not excite him. Also, this will keep them out of the way, not be stepped on, teased by rambunctious children or pick up scraps of party food. Also, do not let anyone give your pet alcohol. Their nervous, respiratory and cardiac systems may be suppressed, which could possibly lead to death for your pet. Make sure they get plenty of water.

Keep in mind that Nebraska's winter weather will be worse before it gets better. Extra care should be given to all outdoor pets. Here are a few tips for you to use to help make your pet safer during the winter. Make sure your pet has a structurally sound shelter with a floor that protects him from the elements. By law, a shelter has to be available for your dog, even if he is out for a short time. Make sure it is the correct size. If it gets extremely cold you may need to bring your pet inside. Extra food may help keep your pet warm. Extra food is fuel. Water is equally important in the winter as it is in the summer, but more difficult to obtain. Ice and snow are not proper supplies of water and, in fact, can be harmful. When returning home from a walk, you may need to clean your dog's feet. Salt and other products commonly used in snow and ice removal can be dangerous for your pet if ingested.

Prevention is the key to keeping your pet safe, healthy and happy during the holiday season. No one wants to spend any time in a vet's hospital during the holidays, least of all your pet!



Keeping you, your family and your pets safe is the top priority during these busy holiday times!







RECENT SCAMS



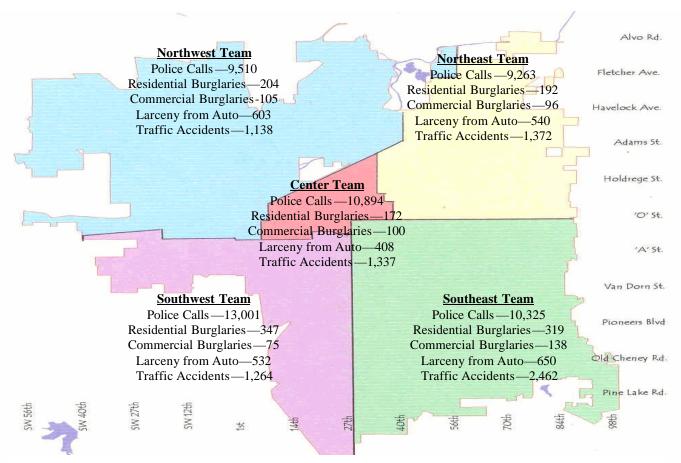
Recently the police department and sheriff's department have been taking reports of scams that involve sales of big ticket items, like espresso machines and other such items. Beware of anyone contacting you via the internet, asking you to sell items for them. Also, beware of anyone sending you more than your ordered. This is similar to what has been happening during some of the recent cases.

Here are some hints for safe online shopping:

- 1. Shop only on reputable sites. It is most comfortable to deal with known companies.
- 2. Make sure you are paying using secured sites that are protecting your information.
- 3. Use some common sense......If it seems to good to be true, it probably is....
- 4. Document your purchases and sales completely so that there is a paper trail
- 5. Do not send any of your credit card information by email. This is not a secure document or method.
- 6. Report any illegal actions to your local police department.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

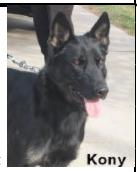
Through November of 2006 there have been 129,342 police calls for service across the city. This is 1.8% fewer calls for service than in the same time frame in 2005. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 1,236, a 5% increase from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are down 13.3% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of November 2006, 2,853 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

Through the end of November 2006, there have been 514 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2005, that gives us a 3.2% decrease in business burglaries. During the end months of 2006, we have seen numerous school and church burglaries in the city. The Lincoln Police Department urges all citizens to call and report anything suspicious.



THANK YOU LINCOLN!!!

The Lincoln Police Department's K9 Unit would like to thank all of the citizens, groups and companies that donated money or time to the K9 fund drive held in 2006. It was very successful and raised over \$20,000 dollars towards the purchase of two new dogs, Jake and Kony. The dogs are out on the street working with their handlers. Jake is handled by



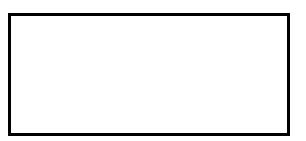
Ofc. Jeff Urkevich, a 9 year veteran of the department. Kony is handled by Ofc. Tyler Dean, a 13 year veteran of the department. Both show great promise as new members of department!

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Lincoln Police Department Crime Prevention Unit 575 South 10th St. Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested



STRANGER DANGER AND YOUR KIDS

Due to recent incidents in Lincoln, we thought it would be prudent to remind parents and adults what they can do to teach stranger danger to their kids.

Teach your children to do three things when confronted by a stranger.

- 1. RUN!!! Tell your children to run away from a stranger to a populated place or a McGruff House.
- 2. YELL!!! Often we urge our kids not to yell. Remind them that they need to yell for help when they are confronted by a stranger. This is to gain the attention of an adult or others around them.
- 3. TELL!!! Once the child has run to a safe place, they need to tell what happened to them. This will aide the police in responding and hopefully finding the person responsible.

It is very important for parents to role play incidents with their children. In these role plays, the parent presents a case of "What if...." to their child. Some "What if...." incidents are:

- "Can you help me find my dog?" **This has been used in recent cases* "I'm lost, can you help me?"
- "Your parents have been in an accident. I am supposed to take you to them."

Remember to periodically reinforce stranger danger topics with your kids. Tell them that sometimes strangers will hurt kids. Kids understand the word "hurt" and that is as graphic as you need to get.

